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Dear friends,

April has been an exciting month for the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. I have been busy traveling throughout the country meeting prospective Fulbright candidates and am glad to have been able to meet many of you during my travels. I would especially like to thank all those universities and faculty who have welcomed and introduced me to prospective candidates.

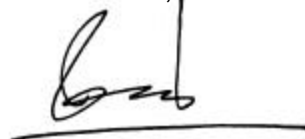
The Fulbright Program office has been busy planning for the Vietnam Fulbright Conference on May 19, in Hanoi. We have selected presenters for the Conference and look forward to learning more about your research and experience at the Conference.

I am happy to announce another exciting initiative that we have started for returned Fulbrighters. On April 19, a group of returned Fulbrighters met in HCMC to begin organizing recruitment and development plans that will help define the future of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. Regular meetings of such working groups will be held in Hanoi and HCMC in the coming months. I encourage all returned Fulbrighters to actively participate in these meetings. Your invaluable input will help us shape the future of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam.

As you can see the Fulbright Program is expanding. To meet our growing needs, we recently welcomed Diane Young to the Fulbright team. Diane started working at the Fulbright Program office on April 3, and will be responsible for administering the Vietnamese Student Program, the largest component of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. She looks forward to meet the entire Fulbright community in Vietnam. Please stop by and introduce yourself to Diane the next time you are in Hanoi, or call now to arrange to see her when she travels to your area. She welcomes your suggestions on prospective candidates.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who helped us update our Fulbright database by answering our recent telephone inquiries. The updated information we collected will help us serve the Fulbright community in the future. Again, thank you for your cooperation.

Best wishes,



Dr. Tran Xuan Thao
Director, Fulbright Program in Vietnam

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ALUMNI NEWS:

Fulbrighters take the lead in recruitment

Returned Fulbright scholars and students met in Ho Chi Minh City on April 19, to take the lead in recruiting candidates for next year's Fulbright class. A group of about 14 returned Fulbright scholars and students convened at the EPCO Hotel to work out plans for how they will assist the Fulbright Program office in recruiting prospective candidates.

The Fulbrighters discussed the purpose and goal of their meetings and did not hesitate to offer ideas on how to recruit more high-caliber candidates for the Fulbright Program. One of their ideas was to organize recruitment sessions whereby returned Fulbrighters can talk about their experiences and answer questions by prospective candidates. Another suggestion was for members of the group to nominate at least 2 candidates each for the Fulbright Program. The members would then work with their candidates to present a strong application to the Fulbright Program.

One returned Fulbright scholar, commented, "I think the new recruitment idea gives returned Fulbrighters a wonderful opportunity to help ensure the vibrancy of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. We can mentor students and scholars who wish to go on the Fulbright Program through the application and adjustment processes. I only wish this type of mentoring program was available when I was applying for the Fulbright Program. It would have given me confidence and a better understanding of the Program."

The group will meet again in May to begin planning recruitment activities and other upcoming events. All returned Fulbrighters are invited to attend and participate. For more information, please call the Fulbright Program office at (04) 831-4580, ext. 150.

Presenters chosen for Fulbright Conference in May

The Fulbright Program office met to select presenters for the Vietnam Fulbright Conference on May 19. The following is a list of presenters and their topics.

Environment

Le thi Thanh My *Cleaner production as implemented on pilot scale for HCMC industries*

Education

Nguyen Thien Tong *Higher education structural reform in Vietnam*
Do Huy Thinh *English Training in HCMC in the 1990s and Implications for the Next Decade*

History and Literature

Nguyen Quoc Vinh *Emperor Quang Trung-Nguyen Hue and the Tay Son Movement: A Vietnam Cultural History*

Business and Law

Doan Huu Duc *Decision Tools – A Heuristic Thinking on Emerging Market Entry Strategy*
Do Duc Dinh *Vietnam-United States Economic Relations Upturn*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

What	Who	Where	When
Vietnam Fulbright Conference	All Fulbright grantees	Hanoi	May 19, 2000
Fulbright Roundtable	Returned Fulbright grantees	HCMC	May 26, 2000
Fulbright Discussion Group	All Fulbright grantees	Hanoi	May 31, 2000

Returned Fulbrighters meet in Hanoi to share common experiences

Returned Fulbright scholars and students met on April 28, at the Hanoi School of Business in Hanoi to share their common experiences. Dr. Do Duc Dinh, vice editor-in-chief of the Vietnam Economic Review and a returned Fulbright student, led the discussion by talking about his Fulbright experience and the opportunities he has had since coming back to Vietnam. After his talk, others in attendance asked questions and spoke about their own experiences. In all, returned Fulbrighters believed their experiences were positive for their personal growth as well as professional development.

At the reception following the discussion, Dr. Roger Ford, U.S. Fulbright Scholar, and Dr. Truong Gia Binh, Dean of the Hanoi School of Business, greeted the guests and offered a guided tour of the school's new facilities. Binh welcomed opportunities and ideas from the Fulbrighters to help develop the newly-established school.

Malaysian Conference invites Fulbrighters

The Malaysian American Association of Malaysia (MAAS) is looking for regional scholars for the MAAS Conference on "American Policy Formulation: Internal Dynamics and External Influences" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on September 10-16. Both Americans and Vietnamese Fulbright scholars who have expertise on the conference topic are invited to submit their names and biodata to the Fulbright Program office in Hanoi. Those selected to participate in the MAAS conference will be notified once selection has been made. Please call (04) 831-4580, extension 114 for more details.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

US Embassy
7 Lang Ha
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: (04) 843-1500
Fax: (04) 843-1510

Public Affairs Section - Hanoi
6 Ngoc Khanh
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: (04) 831-4580
Fax: (04) 831-4601
Email: Fulbrightvn@fpt.vn

Fulbright Program Website:

<http://www.usembassy.state.gov/vietnam/wwwfhfp.html>

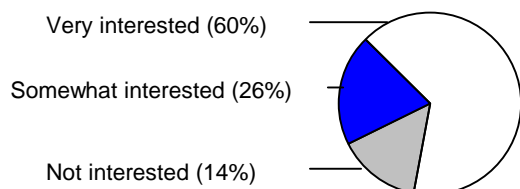
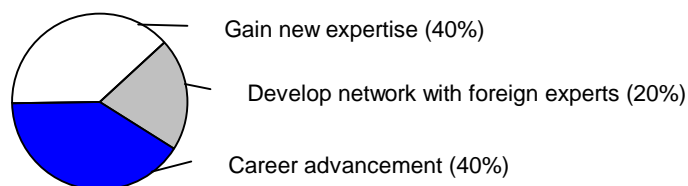
US Consulate
4 Le Duan, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City,
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Tel: (08) 822-9433
Fax: (08) 822-9434

Public Affairs Section - HCMC
9/F, Saigon Centre
65 Le Loi, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel: (08) 821-6400
Fax: (08) 821-6405

FULBRIGHT SURVEY RESULTS

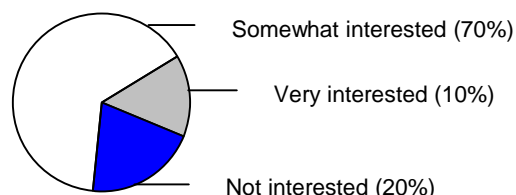
The results of the Fulbright survey and career profiles of returned Fulbright scholars and students are below.

In what ways have your Fulbright experience helped you in your present career? (15 responses)

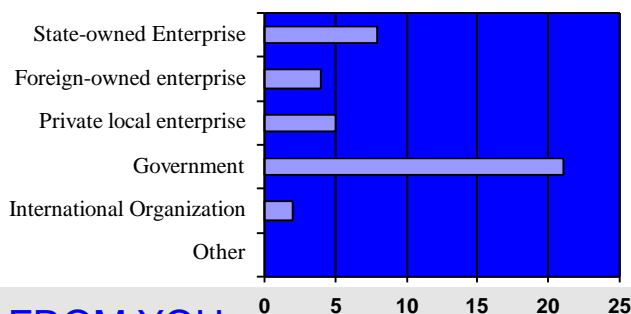


How interested are you in more opportunities for informal gathering with other Fulbrighters? (15 responses)

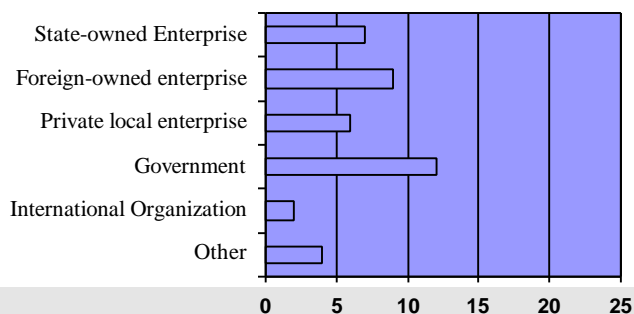
Would you be interested in hosting a Fulbright speaker series? (15 responses)



Employment sector of Vietnamese Fulbrighters before going on Fulbright Program: (n = 40)



Employment sector of Vietnamese Fulbrighters after returning to Vietnam. (n = 40)



FROM YOU:

Have you moved recently? Please write your new contact details here and fax or email to PAS - Hanoi: (04) 831-4601 or fulbrightvn@fpt.vn.

New Address: _____

New telephone: _____

New fax: _____

New E-mail: _____

FULBRIGHTERS AT WORK

Dinh Tuan Viet helps World Bank in Vietnam

Dinh Tuan Viet, a returned Fulbrighter living in Hanoi, is now working as economic analyst at the World Bank to assist in the economic development of Vietnam. "The work is quite challenging, and the personal and professional rewards I receive from my work gives me great satisfaction," said Viet. He credits his Fulbright Program for the opportunity to work in his present capacity.

Having been trained in command-based economics in the former Soviet Union, Viet welcomed any opportunity to re-orient his understanding of market-based economics. So when he was given the opportunity to go on the Fulbright Program in 1994, Viet naturally chose to further his education in economics.

The education and training he received during his Fulbright grant allowed him to obtain the skills necessary for his current work at the World Bank. "The training provided by the Fulbright Program is a great opportunity for any Vietnamese, but especially for an economist, since market-based economic theories are becoming more and more relevant to the Vietnamese condition," said Viet.

In addition, as a mid-career professional, the Fulbright Program helped Viet gain the skills and knowledge necessary for him to move into more senior level positions. He said that it was difficult for him to find a study program suitable for his needs at the time. The Fulbright Program, however, fitted his needs perfectly. "I knew the Fulbright Program had a reputation for academic excellence but, what I found surprising is how practical the program was for me in terms of my career and personal growth," commented Viet.

As for his involvement in Fulbright activities since his return, Viet thinks that he is too old and too busy to attend the various social receptions. However, he still keeps close contact with other Fulbrighters who went on the program during the same time.

Diane Young joins Fulbright Program

With the recent consolidation and expansion of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, the Program office welcomed its newest member, Diane Weisz Young. Diane joined the staff on April 3rd. She will be the Program Officer for the Vietnam Student Program and will assist Dr. Tran Xuan Thao in the administration of the program. She welcomes questions from prospective candidates and is very pleased to be working in this new position. Her email address is: dyhano@pd.state.gov.

Diane brings a wealth of experience in educational programming and administration. Diane received an MA in counseling from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and a BA in international relations from the College of Wooster (Ohio). She worked in the United States at a number of colleges and universities doing career, personal, academic, and residential-life counseling and programming.

Diane has lived in Hanoi since July 1998, and previously served as the Community Liaison Coordinator for the U.S. Embassy, assisting American Embassy personnel and their families living in Hanoi. Diane lives in Hanoi with her husband, David, and children, Paul (4) and Sarah (2).

FULBRIGHT FEATURE:**Hiliary Douglas writes play to understand more about Vietnam**

The following is an article by Hiliary Douglas, a U.S. Fulbright student researching literature in Vietnam. She has traveled throughout Vietnam to gain a better understanding of the people and culture for her doctoral research.

When I was a junior in college, working toward a bachelors of fine arts in theatre, I took my first playwriting class. My final assignment for the class was to write a one-act play based upon an article we chose from a newspaper. I chose an article about an American Vietnam Veteran who had preserved a picture for 25 years that he found in the wallet of a man he had killed during the war – the picture was of the man and his daughter. The article stated that to complete the healing process, this veteran decided to come to Vietnam to look for the girl in the picture. From this emotionally-complex true story, I wrote a fictional account of what transpired the first time he and the woman met.

I was born in 1976, a year after the reunification of Vietnam. Although both my stepfather and godfather were involved with the war, I know little about this significant event in both countries' histories and even less about the Vietnamese perspective. I believe there is definitely a generation gap that exists in America and in Vietnam between older people who experienced the war directly and young people like me whose only experience with war was the remote images of the "Gulf War." I had to research extensively to begin to understand more about the war years and their aftermath both in America and in Vietnam. My research helped me appreciate and respect the Vietnamese struggle for reunification and the ensuing efforts of the nation to modernize and participate in the global economy. I was also filled with admiration at the many true stories like the one in the newspaper article and the high level of organizations and programs that American veterans have participated in after the war to make peace with past events and to help the Vietnamese people. My growing interest in modern relations between Vietnam and America and a desire to rewrite my play more truthfully (based upon my specific experiences in Vietnam), led me to apply for the Fulbright grant.

The Fulbright grant has given me the opportunity to be a guest in Vietnam for 10 months to pursue my goals. I have felt really welcomed by my Vietnamese friends and colleagues, many of whom have helped me with my project. The biggest challenge that I face now is the pressure I put on myself to write my Vietnamese characters truthfully – hopefully to the point where a Vietnamese watching the play could believe that this character truly has a Vietnamese heart and soul. A playwright always must face the challenge of creating voices different from their own, but when the voices cross national and cultural borders, this process becomes even more difficult! The assumption that I could come to Vietnam and *completely* understand the local culture within 10 months was quite wrong – true understanding happens gradually in steps with no real end point! With my play, "polishing" meant rewriting, and rewriting meant starting over as my cultural understanding increased.

The lessons I have learned on this project can be applied on a larger scale to artistic collaboration and exchange between cultures, as well as international relations and foreign policy. Development should occur slowly and surely with constant reassessment of our understanding about our partner's views and perspectives. On the eve of the 25th anniversary of Vietnam's reunification, we can look back and see the many positive steps that Vietnamese and Americans have made to improve their relations, and reassess the areas that need further development. I believe that artists can and should play a vital role in this process. At a time when closer ties are being formed economically and politically, art must keep pace. As an American artist working in Vietnam, I understand more and more the power of art to move and inform cross-culturally – to illustrate simultaneously the reality of the current situation as well as the beauty and potential within everyone, no matter what country or political system they live under.